The Black Book of Newgate:

OR,

AN EXACT

COLLECTION

OF THE

Most material Proceedings

AT ALL

The SESSIONS in the *Old baily*,

For Eighteen months last past.

Particularly relating to the Tryals of

John Smith	*Charles Godfry*	*William Johnson*
George Marshall	*Roger Withers*	*Robert* and *William* Dine
John Darkin	*Matthew Walkender*	
Michael Jones	*John Evans*	
Charles Potter	*John Seabrooke*	
Henry Seabrooke	*William Minors*	*Margaret*
Elizabeth Longman	*Arthur Minors*	*Nicholas Throckmorton*
Frances Watson, alias *Riggs.*	*Richard Shaw*	*William Dennis*
	Thomas Sadler	*Mary Hicks*, &c.

AS ALSO

REFLECTIONS and OBSERVATIONS on several Passages.

Set forth for a Publick Warning to all that read it, by *W. W.* Gent.

With Allowance. *Ro. L'Estrange.*

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The Proceedings at all the Sessions in the *Old-Bayly* for Eighteen months last past.

THough this Collection was intended only for one year past before this present *Aug.* 1677, and thence (if encouraged by General Acceptance) to be annually continued, yet we shall reflect a little further, and begin with.

An account of the Sessions before Easter-*Term* 1676, *beginning* April *the* 5th.

There were then no fewer than Fifteen men and One woman Convicted (*per Patriam*) upon fair Tryals for their respective Crimes, who received sentence of Death; of whom Eight of the least notorious, by mercy of Authority, upon consideration of Circumstances, mediation of Friends, and solemn Engagements of future Amendment, obtained the gracious favour of Reprieves: the other Eight were executed *April* the 19th, their Names and Crimes as follows:

John Smith, *George Marshall*, and *John Darkin*, for Robbing the Parish-Church of St. *Giles in the Fields*, and

and ſtealing ſeveral pieces of Plate, Communion-Chalices, &c. which they performed by the help of and Engine of Villany, called a *Betty*, of incredible force for forcing open Doors, Locks, Bolts, &c. this was made by *Darkin*, an extraordinary Artiſt at ſuch black works. Theſe Priſoners did aver in *Newgate*, that when they were got into the Veſtry and breaking open the Cheſts, a *Spectrum* or Apparition did viſibly ſtand before them; but ſo reſolved they were on their wicked Deſigne, that even the Devil himſelf could not ſcare them from it.

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Michael Jones and *Charles Potter*, for a Burglary and Robbery in *Dukes-place*, taking away ſeveral bags of Money, Plate, Cloaths, &c. *Jones* at *Tyburn* made a very penitent Speech, declaring how Idleneſs, Diſobedience to his Parents, Ill Company, and lewd Women, firſt brought him into bad Courſes, and conſequently to this untimely Death.

John Maxfield, for robbing a Brick-maker in *Frog-lane*, whom he and his Crew barbarouſly ſtript naked. He was about a fortnight afterwards taken by the Watch, (or rather by their Dogs, for had it not been for them he had eſcaped) being, 'tis probable, going again on the like Deſigne.

Anthony Tailor for a Felony and Burglary, and *Elizabeth Simmonds*, for murdering her Baſtard-childe, which ſhe threw into a Pond.

At the Seſſions after Eaſter-*Term* 1676, *holden the* 10th *and* 11th *of* May,

There was Nine Condemned, but Five Executed; and of thoſe, Three Condemned the Seſſions before,

viz. *Henry Seabrook* concerned in the ſaid Robbery in *Dukes-place*, but repriev'd, pretending to diſcover the reſt of the Cabal; which not making good, he was now executed.

Robert Scott for Felony and Burglary: He had been indicted and acquitted one Seſſions, convicted and burnt in the hand next Seſſions, condemned and repriev'd laſt Seſſions, and now, though a Priſoner, found to contrive and abet Rogueries abroad, and thereupon hang'd out of the way.

Elizabeth Longman, an old and impudent Offender, having been above Twelve times in *Newgate*, ſhe had been lately tranſported; but returning, ſtole a great quantity of Silks; for which ſhe was Convicted laſt Seſſions, and employ'd *Edward Wall* and *Edward Ruſſel* to engage a Gentleman of Quality to ſolicite a Reprieve for one of her Companions. In this Gentleman's Lodgings they obſerv'd abundance of Plate, and ſpeaking of it, this *Beſs Longman* cries, *And did you onely ſee it? you dull Fools, go take it into poſſeſſion*: Which, at her inſtigation they effected; but being young Thieves, were ſcon diſcovered; pleaded guilty to the Indictment, and now ſuffer'd with her.

At a Seſſions the 28th *of* June 1676.

Three men and Two women received ſentence of Death, but onely Four ſuffered, viz. *Alexander After* and *Thomas Fowler*, for Robbery on the Highway, being Rogues of the Foot-pad that uſed to pillage Market-women, *&c.*

Richard Hazlegrove for having Two Wives: Upon his Conviction he prayed the benefit of his Cler-

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gy, which was granted; but not being able to read, was Condemned and Executed: A Case that seems a little severe; but so the Law directs: which may admonish Parents to bestow, and Children to study at least to read well, since sometimes a man loses his life meerly for want of it.

The fourth was famous *Frances Watson*, otherwise called Mrs. *Riggs* the younger. Thieving had been her Trade from her infancy; her Mother often Condemn'd, and then under Transportation; one or two of her Brothers, and several pretended Husbands or Gallants hang'd; to which she brought her self now by her own simplicity: For, lying for Transportation, she sent for several people she had robb'd to get money of them, under pretence of helping them to their Goods again; not doubting but she was safe now from being indicted for them: but therein her *Newgate*-Counsel fail'd her; for her pardon extended onely to remit the Crime for which she was convicted: So that she was now arraigned afresh, and found guilty upon her own Confession, and so followed the fate of her Family.

At the Sessions Aug. 23, *&c.* 1676.

Sixteen Condemn'd, onely Eight suffered, viz. *Tho. Moore*, and *James Parker* Convicted of a Felony, which appeared to the Court to be a Burglary at *Cue* in *Surry*; and so excluding benefit of Clergy, one of them refusing to plead till he was put into the Press, and so bruised, that without further Execution, 'tis thought he would not have surviv'd.

Charles Godfry and *Rogers Withers* for a like Crime committed in *Hartfordshire*; but being taken in *Middlesex* with some of the Goods about them, were tryable here.

Richard Cook, *Matthew Walkenden*, and *Martha Harman*, for

for ſeveral Burglaries. The later was a matchleſs young piece of Confidence, who broke open a houſe at *Iſlington*; a Crime rarely attempted by that Sex: ſhe had four times before been tryed for ſeveral Offences, but now could not obtain further indulgence.

The laſt was *John Evans*, a lad not above Fifteen years of age, but old in Roguery: He had ſeveral Indictments for Felonies againſt him, and had been both whipt and burnt in the hand before.

At the Seſſions 11th *of* October 1676.

Sixteen in all received ſentence of Death, but onely Five Executed. The moſt remarkable buſineſs was the Tryal of *Henry Graves* for murdering one *William Parker* a Ditcher at *Iſlington*. The Priſoner and his Brother (not then taken) fell upon him without cauſe, ſwore they would beat out his brains, and with a ſtake did at laſt kill him; yet the Jury, for I know not what reaſons, found it only Manſlaughter: but Providence not ſuffering Murder ſo to eſcape, when he came to his Book, though a pretty good Scholar, and well tutor'd before, yet he could not read a word, and thereupon was deſervedly hang'd.

The other four were *John Seabrook*, *William Minors*, *Arthur Minors*, and *Richard Shaw*, for ſeveral Burglaries and Felonies.

At the Seſſions held Jan. *the* 17th 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

There were Two Condemned, a woman of above Forty years of age for murdering her Baſtard-childe, who was Executed, and a man for Perſonating another man as Bail before a Judge, who at the Gallows received a gracious Reprieve. At this time was that blaſphemous Impoſtor *Lodowick Muggleton* tryed, and ſentenced to ſtand three days in the Pillory, his Books to be burnt before his face, to pay Five hundred pounds fine, and give Bail (not of his own Party or Gang) for his good behaviour.

At the Seſſions 7th *of* March 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

Was Tryed and Executed the renounced *Thomas Sadler*, and *William*

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William Johnson, for a Burglary in the house of the Lord High Chancellor of *England*, and stealing the Mace and two Purses. *Sadler* as he had lived impudently, so he died pitifully, and with little generosity of Spirit; but *Johnson*, with a becoming resolution and staid temper that at once shew'd his sense of his sins, and faith in his Saviour, made a very repentant and pithy Discourse at the place of Execution, endeavouring to warn all others by his Example, *&c.* At the same time there suffered *Francis Webb*, *Matthew Gammond*, and *Anthony Richoake*, for several Burglaries: There being in all Fifteen Condemned, the rest obtained Reprieves.

The Sessions 25th *of* April 1677.

Was famous for the Tryal, Condemnation, and Execution of *Robert*, *William*, and *Margaret Dine*, two own brothers and a sister, for disfiguring, and in a barbarous manner mangling the Nose and Face of one *Jane King*, contrary to the late Act of Parliament in that behalf. They all absolutely persisted to deny the doing this cruel fact, and asserted their innocency to the last gasp, and died very much pitied by many people that knew them. At the same time suffered one *Margaret Spicer* for murdering her Bastard-childe: As also *David Hackley*, *Jeremiah Dawson*, and *Mary Brown*, all notorious Offenders, and formerly burnt in the hand, now convicted of several Felonies.

The Sessions the first of June 1677.

There were then Condemned Mr. *Nicholas Throckmorton*, for robbing two Ministers on the road three miles on this side *Uxbridge*; taken by the most commendable courage of one of the Ministers men, who alone fought with the Prisoner and his Companion for above half an hour; and at last with the help of his Master, moved (though without a Weapon) by his servant's brave defence, to assist him what he could, made one of the Thieves ride away, and took the other. He suffered very penitently on the 13th of *June*: At which time was likewise Executed *William Dennis* for murdering a poor Tub-man, who being in a furious passion against his Wife, and having beat her ex-

exceedingly, a Croud of people were gathered about; whereupon taking down an Half-pike, he swore he would kill some of them; and accordingly dispatcht this harmless man, sitting on his Water-tubs, without the least provocation. Which may teach all men to moderate their passions, and not let them run unbridled to mischief, lest thereby they bring themselves to some such shameful End.

The last Sessions in July 1677.

Was sufficiently crouded to hear the Tryal of that Monster, rather than woman, *Mary Hicks*, who suffer'd her self to be Buggered by a Mungril. This detestable Villany was sufficiently proved by Three witnesses; and for the same, the vile wretch was executed on the 18th of *July*, the Dog being carried along with her in the Cart, and hang'd upon a Tree neer the Gallows before her face.

One of the Evidence being great with Childe, there has been a scandalous Report spread abroad, that the same day this woman suffer'd, she should fall in Labour, and not being able to be delivered, confess that she had herein forsworn her self out of malice; which Report, and others to the same effect, are utterly false and groundless; the said Witness continuing in perfect health, and well satisfi'd in the integrity of her Testimony.

The same day suffered *John Gimbold* and *Mary Russel*, both old incorrigible Offenders, and now Condemned for several Felonies.

Fœlix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

Happy's the man that learns by others harms,
And 'gainst such fatal Crimes his Spirit arms.

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The laſt Seſſions in July 1677.

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